

UTM's award-winning college newspaper

# thepacer

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## Suspect held in UV II burglaries

Kristina Shaw

Assistant A&amp;E Editor

Two burglary reports were filed with the UTM Department of Public Safety on Sunday.

Both cases reportedly occurred in building G of University Village Phase 2 on floors three and four.

According to the reports, students said several electronic devices were stolen from the common areas of their apartments.

All together, the stolen items included 21 various Playstation and Xbox games, multiple Playstation and Xbox 360 controllers, two Playstation consoles, two Xbox 360 consoles, a pair of Beats wireless headphones, a phone charger and an unspecified book.

UTM police began its investigation with the Office of Housing on Monday, using footage from security cameras located in the halls.

The footage reportedly shows that two men went around the building about 2:20 a.m. Sunday, checking for unlocked doors and leaving with items.

"Really, the theft here is opportunistic, and we really urge people to keep those doors secure," said Capt. Scott Robbins, director of Public Safety. "We can have all the card swipes and the dorm security workers, but all of that doesn't



Pacer Photo/Laura Crossett

mean anything if you leave your door unlocked."

The pair masked their appearance as they moved through the halls. However, both suspects were identifiable on film when they entered the building.

Officials spent Tuesday identifying the suspects. The first suspect, Brock Bond, is currently being held at the Weakley County Detention Center on two counts of aggravated burglary.

As press time, the second suspect had not yet been arrested, although a warrant had been issued. Along with two counts of aggravated burglary, the second

suspect will be charged with aggravated criminal trespass.

Officer Jerry Garcia, the leading investigator on the case, praised the help and cooperation of students and the Housing staff in making the investigation easier.

None of the items have been recovered. Police encourage students, faculty and staff alike to write down the serial numbers of their electronics.

Public Safety released an email on Tuesday, urging students to lock their cars and residences, and to report any suspicious activity to 7777.

## House Majority Whip resigns amid allegations

Justin Glover

News Editor

Representative Jeremy Durham, the Majority Whip for the Tennessee House of Representatives, resigned his post on Sunday.

There is currently no timetable for electing Durham's replacement. Durham will retain his seat in the House's legislative body.

Durham's resignation comes amid a sexual harassment investigation regarding the lawmaker. The *Tennessean* newspaper published a report Sunday morning featuring text messages from Durham to three anonymous women, who said they regarded the messages as inappropriate.

The Tennessee House Republican Caucus issued a statement hours later indicating that Durham had resigned. Shortly thereafter, the representative denied having resigned at that point.

"In accordance with our House Republican Caucus bylaws, I have received and accepted the resignation of Representative Jeremy Durham as House Majority Whip," said House Majority Leader Gerald McCormick in the statement. "I believe he has made a good decision to prevent this issue from continuing to be a distraction to our Caucus."

Meanwhile, Ryan Haynes, the chairman of the Tennessee Republican Party, attacked Durham for his alleged behavior.

"Sexual harassment of any kind is wrong," said Haynes. "Voters elect public officials to focus on our communities and our state. Officeholders should not take part in anything that undermines that commitment. This behavior is a stain on the good work that is done at the Legislature and is not reflective of either the good men and women who work there or the Republican Party."

Durham later confirmed his resignation in his own statement, released about 6:15 p.m. Sunday. In his statement, Durham attributed his decision to the pressure of the media on his position.

"This targeted media campaign continues to distract our caucus and the legislature from focusing on the serious work that needs to be done over the next few months," said Durham.

"Stepping aside from my leadership position should put an end to my role in the distraction," he said.

Durham's representation includes the city of Franklin as well as other parts of Williamson County.

## Tennessee Senate examines tuition growth rate

Justin Glover

News Editor

The Tennessee Senate was presented Thursday with a bill to limit the growth of tuition for state colleges and universities.

The bill, titled the Tennessee Tuition Stability Act, would limit increases in tuition costs to the Consumer Price Index (CPI), according to a release issued Thursday. In addition, the bill would lock in tuition rates for incoming freshmen for the next four years.

"College tuition is out of control in Tennessee, and everyone knows it," said Sen. Dolores Gresham, chair of the Senate Education Committee, who introduced the bill. "Any college student or their family who attended a Tennessee college or university during the last decade understands all too well the problem this bill addresses."

Tuition across several state colleges and universities have increased exponentially over the last two decades, according



Photo Credit/Associated Press

to the release. At the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, tuition has increased by more than 450 percent over that timespan, and a family receiving the state median income would be spending approximately 29 percent of their income on tuition at the university, compared with about 7 percent in 1996.

"Skyrocketing tuition places a barrier between middle and working class Tennesseans and success," said Sen.

Gresham. "It amounts to a tax increase on the American dream. Tennessee families keep their budgets in check by tightening their belts and keeping their priorities in order. Tennessee colleges and universities must do likewise."

If the act passes, tuition increases of less than the most recent annual percentage change in the CPI plus two percent would require at least two-thirds of either the Tennessee Board of Regents or the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees to vote in favor of the change for it to pass. Greater increases would require unanimous approval.

"If the present rate of tuition increases were to continue, an affordable college education would soon be out of reach for all but the most affluent Tennesseans," said Sen. Gresham. "That is simply unacceptable. Education is the great equalizer. Affordable college education is what has enabled Tennesseans throughout history to rise and succeed."





# Viewpoints

## EDITORIAL

# Get used to being offended

With political and social tensions at a steady increase, it seems that people are offended more easily than ever, and no one can express any opinion without being labeled the scum of the earth.

Whether it be Republican or Democrat, black or white, gay or straight, everyone is offended by everything, and we have no problem with voicing how offended we are. To make things clear, voicing your opinion is a good

thing. It's one of the very freedoms protected by the first amendment. But there is a huge difference in voicing your opinion against someone else's words or actions and trying to silence someone because you don't agree with them.

In today's world, we have become so coddled that, for some reason, we think that because something offends us, it should be stopped all together and we should shun those who believe otherwise.

Isn't that a form of oppression? Isn't that one of the reasons this country was founded: to get away from persecution like that? Since when do we think it's okay to silence others, other Americans, from voicing their opinions? That's not okay.

As American citizens, we are each entitled to our own opinions and have the right to voice those opinions. Just because someone else's opinion is different than our

own doesn't mean it's wrong. It's an opinion, not a fact. It's healthy for us to hear a different perspective from our own.

Children tell on each other and try to get each other in trouble when they get their feelings hurt. As adults, we should've learned by now. We should be able to have an adult conversation about the topics we disagree on without resorting to childish behavior.

## COLUMNS

# Generational bickering to generational change

**Ashton Priest**

*Viewpoints Editor*

With this year being the year of possible life-changing events, the generations are at each other's throats, claiming that they "have it worse" and that "they are the best generation." What differences are generations fighting about now?

First are the baby boomers. This generation made its presence during the 1940s through the early 1960s. They are the generation of many opportunities thanks to their post-war optimism and are now reaping the benefits of retirement and Social Security. However, they are coined as narcissistic by the others as well as self-centered. Other generations believe that the baby-boomers don't care about them because baby-boomers believe that the same technique used to fix a problem 40 years ago is still the same solution to the problem now in this ever-changing society.

Then there is Generation X. People born in the late-1960s through 1980 were the generation

that was thrown into responsibility and took independence early on following their parents' future. However, they found that future disappointing. They are the people that had to decide between their family and their career. Baby boomers are quick to say that this generation didn't try as hard as they did despite that this was a different time period. Millennials found them inspiring but saw that it would be tougher to be successful like them.

Lastly, there is Generation Y, most commonly known as the Millennials. This generation, born during the 1980s through 1994, are self-expressional, confused and are experiencing existential crises. They grew up with advancing technology and were mostly sheltered and coddled, not by choice, by their Generation X parents. They were told to work hard to climb up the ladder only to realize that the ladder was slowly disappearing from their grasp. This brought them to be more independent, speaking out more

than ever to others to let their voice be heard. They are shaking up traditional models and are changing the world creatively. Millennials have been called by other generations as whiny and privileged, even though the times are changing and it calls for new ideas.

So who has it worse off? Before we answer this question, we have to go over a few aspects.

First of all, each generation lived through a different period of time with different events happening. These factors change how people view and perceive the world.

How can we perfectly argue if some didn't experience certain times at all? For example, millennials don't know how it was to live in a great economical time in the wake of the 2008 recession, but the Baby Boomers don't know what it is like to struggle in the time of recession since they were already financially stable.

Also, there's no need to invalidate the opinions of the

other generations. Yes, times are changing and things do have to change for the times. However, there are some past experiences and wisdom that could benefit the growth of future generations. The exchange of ideas and views should help people grow, not shun them from sharing and contributing.

Honestly, each generation has experienced its own triumphs and disappointments. Times are changing and the only way we can successfully get through this is to put everything on the back-burner and work together. Baby boomers have the motivation, Generation X have the ways to change, and the millennials have the creative ideas. Each has their strengths based on the time in which they grew up, so why can't we use them to our advantage?

Together, we can fix whatever needs to be fix. Only when we start having discussions rather than tantrums, we can change today for the better for generations now and generations to come.

# Does Flint expose more problems than just water?

**Ashton Priest**

*Viewpoints Editor*

In recent news, Flint, Michigan has been dealing with water contamination.

Officials switched the town's water supply from Lake Huron to Flint River in April of 2014 to cut down costs. Ever since, residents have complained about the brown color of the water and its terrible taste, as well as developing rashes and eye irritation. They were even told to boil the water because of the presence of E. Coli.

A local pediatrician, Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha, decided to conduct research after hearing that the water was contaminated with lead and took samples of lead levels in people from before and after the water switch. Results showed that the lead levels in children had doubled or even tripled.

Many officials said she was

causing too much hysteria despite looking at research, even with the governor not taking a stand until an uproar appeared. After the scandal on Flint was revealed, Governor Rick Synder declared a state of emergency. The town then received donations in the forms of water bottles.

The main question is this: If Flint were a rich, white neighborhood instead of a poor, black community, would public and government officials have intervened sooner?

"The heads were not being given the right information by the quote-unquote experts," Mr. Snyder said. "And I use that word with great trial and tribulation because they were considered experts in terms of their background. These are career civil servants. They had strong science, medical backgrounds in terms of their research. But as a practical matter, when you

look at it today, and you look at their conclusions, I wouldn't call them experts anymore," said Michigan Gov. Rick Synder in the state's response to the issue.

He did realize that Dr. Hanna-Attisha's research was reviewed by a state health official, and they found that the results were consistent, right? Experts were literally telling him and other officials over the year that the water was a cause for concern and wasn't safe. Gov. Synder basically said that since their facts didn't agree with his opinion, they are obviously incompetent despite the fact they have more medical knowledge and doctorates.

I believe this honestly was racism. If this town was a rich and white community, the state government would've responded immediately in an assertive manner. They probably wouldn't have moved the water supply from Lake

Huron in the first place.

Since this town is full of poor and black citizens, however, it didn't deserve to be looked into. It never deserved funds for healthcare, education or the local economy, so why give them access to the basic human right that is known as clean water? After reading testimonies from the members of Flint, it was saddening to know that what little money they had went straight towards bottled water to cook with, clean with and drink to avoid illness and possibly death.

Sadly in the year of 2016, the color of your skin still determines whether you have basic human rights or not despite what most of the public media tells you. I hope that as we progress throughout the year that Flint will finally have access to clean water and that racism would stop being a deciding factor in almost everything.

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Publications



# Arts & Entertainment

## Bringing to light the art of undeniable blackness

**Jerry Garcia**  
Staff Writer

Almost all art exhibits have a single word that can be used to sum up the entire show. Some artists use words such as creative, technical and spiritual. Other artists may use a single emotion such as anger or sorrow to describe their creations. However, the artist, Lurlynn Franklin, used a single word that she said was what she wanted to expressed undeniably in her work: Blackness.

The artist, Ms. Franklin, entitled her portraits gallery "Fabled Truths" and her quilts and verse gallery "Colored Cartoons in Undeniable Blackness." She was walking the room, more than happy to explain her creations to anyone who asked. While she may appear small, she is boundless in spirit and passion. She was very intense and aggressive in her descriptions of her images, but not scary or angry with anyone.

She also poured her heart into the art and was unapologetic about it. After hearing her explain a particular piece entitled "Kiss my Black Ass," the entire room understood that she was

proud of her work, after they were done laughing at her entertaining description.

While it was clear that she valued her pieces, she also has pride for her poetry as well. It was refreshing and pleasing to see verse alongside visual art.

Every poem correlated to events that had happened in the artist's life. They detailed stories of anger, sadness, happiness and more emotions than are easily explained. Each poem told her stories and the hard and soft lessons of the experiences.

The entire exhibit was designed to appeal to anyone that entered the room. The atmosphere was light and happy, as were the people that were in attendance. There were people of all races, backgrounds and ages walking the room; from students to teachers and from academics to laymen.

While some would think that this entire exhibit was a woman making a proud statement of her culture, they would be wrong. Ms. Franklin said that she wanted to expose the misconceptions of the culture. "I want to show the stereotypes," says Ms. Franklin. In her work, she expresses this desire immensely.



Pacer Photo /Laura Crossett

## Oscar nominations pose diversity questions

**Chelsea Monroe**  
Staff Writer

The 2016 Academy Awards are scheduled to air on Sunday, Feb. 28, but not without a healthy dose of controversy and questions of scandal.

The nominees for this year were announced on Jan. 14, and, to many people's surprise, the list of actors and actresses were exclusively white. This makes the second year in a row for the Oscars to release an all white nominee list, and it is not settling well with many celebrities and fans alike. The hashtag #OscarsSoWhite has been trending since the nomination release as people weigh in with their opinions on the subject matter all over social media.

The main concern arising from this is whether or not the Academy is racist, and a large number of folks believes this to be the case. With an all white nominee list coming from an organization with predominantly white members, one could see the validity of these accusations. On the other hand, there are many factors suggesting that maybe this is a grand coincidence.

This year, the Oscars will be hosted by none other than Chris Rock, an African-American actor and comedian. When the lack of diversity first broke out, some wondered if he



Photo Credit / ew.com

would step down from host as many actors made public decisions to boycott the awards. Instead, Rock threw out the original script he had written and began writing a new, relevant show provocatively touching on the race issues and plenty of #OscarsSoWhite jokes.

Chris Rock remains positive while raising awareness through jokes and puns during the show, but Will and Jada Pinkett-Smith among others have expressed great disapproval of the Academy's actions and have chosen to boycott the awards all together. They are even encouraging others to do the same. While few have decided to take the route of the Smiths, there is a nearly unanimous response that there needs to be greater efforts to increase diversity among the academy, the awards, and the industry altogether.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences

board pledged last Friday to double minority and female membership by 2020 and have decided on "substantive changes designed to make the Academy's membership, its governing bodies, and its voting members significantly more diverse." Whoopi Goldberg, an Academy Award winner in 1991, argued that it is not even so much that they need to make changes, even though that is a noble effort, but rather that directors and producers need to understand that a picture isn't complete without diversity. She believes there is a lack in colorful roles, not just a lack in colorful awards.

Whether it is institutional or industrial changes that need to be made, the Academy wants to assure all that they are not racist. They are welcoming of and excited about the positive attention and constant jokes that Chris Rock will bring, and hopeful for a better, more diverse future.

## February features new stuff on Netflix

**Chelsea Monroe**  
Staff Writer

February is around the corner and for TV series binge watchers and movie connoisseurs, a new month means a new Netflix experience.

Earlier this month, Netflix released what we can expect from February, and it is full of excitement. Netflix originals, movies, documentaries and additional seasons are coming our way.

The most anticipated debut among the masses is Season 1 of the Netflix original series "Fuller House."

In this revival show, we find the Tanner family back in San Francisco, right where we left them in 1995. Only this time, the former children are all grown up.

The story picks up with America's beloved older sister, D.J. Tanner (Candace Cameron Bure), recently widowed with three boys moving into her childhood home with her sister Stephanie Tanner (Jodie Sweetin) and best friend Kimmy Gilbert (Andrea Barber).

Sound familiar? It is basically a gender-flipped version of the original series where the father is left alone with three young girls, raising them with his brother-in-law

and best friend. High hopes, high expectations, and high skepticism come with this revamped edition of such a classic series. "Fuller House" will be released on Netflix Feb. 26.

Feb. 1 brings a long list of new things to view, including everyone's favorite racecar driver in "Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby." Joining him in first place on the list of releases is "Charlie's Angels" and "Teen Witch."

If you're looking for something a little more kid friendly, "Open Season," "Scooby Doo" and "Scooby Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed" will also make their debut on the first of the month.

A few days later we can dive back into the exciting world of Don Draper as Netflix adds part two of the last season of "Mad Men" on Feb. 5. Viewers can expect to find Draper making advertising history in this fictional series about the 1960 ad industry.

Sadly, Netflix must clean out their closets and remove a few old to make room for the new. Classic movies you should squeeze in this weekend are *The Naked Gun*, *Rain Man* and *Terminator* because they will be cut from the list by the first of the month.



# Sports

## UTM student wins 2015 PCA Breakaway Roping Championship

**Sydney Lafreniere**

Guest Writer

Kelsey Bussell, a senior Communications major, earned the title of 2015 Professional Cowboy Association Breakaway Roper Champion last week in Biloxi, Mississippi.

Bussell attended the 2015 Professional Cowboy Association Rodeo Finals at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum and Convention Center.

"The association was nice enough to give us a kick-off rodeo for the 2016 season before starting the 2015 year-end finals," said Bussell. "The finals began on Jan. 19 and lasted until Jan. 24. There were four rounds, so I competed in one round per day."

Bussell competed in Breakaway Roping. In that event, there is a rope around the calf's neck. The rider nods their head to call for the calf. The calf then leaves the shoot, and when the rope breaks off of the calf's neck, the time begins. The rider's goal is to rope the calf's neck faster than anyone else. There is a flag tied to the end of the rider's rope on their saddle horn, and once the rope is around the calf's neck and the flag leaves



UTM student Kelsey Bussell poses with her PCA Breakaway Roping Championship saddle and belt buckle. | Photo Credit/ Sam White

the rider's saddle, the judge ends the time. The rider with the fastest roping time wins.

Bussell won the kickoff rodeo with a 2.7-second rope. In the first round of the PCA Finals, she was second place with 2.5 seconds, and she won the second round with 2 seconds flat.

"I had a little bit of tough luck in the third round," said Bussell. "The rope that's supposed to fall off of the calf's neck caught on my foot

as I was leaving the box, so it kind of threw me out of whack and I wasn't able to place there." In the fourth round, she was able to split second and third places with 2.2 seconds.

"I came into the finals in the number 9 hole, and I was very, very blessed to come out in the number one hole," said Bussell. "I won a belt buckle—it's the nicest belt buckle I have ever won—and a gorgeous new saddle that has my new title on the fender on the leg. I'm so, so happy with it." She also won a cash prize for each round, with the final amount totaling over \$7000. On top of being the Breakaway Roping Champion, Bussell also received the title of "Professional Cowboy Association Rookie of the Year".

Bussell will be competing this spring with the UT Martin Rodeo team in Breakaway Roping, and she is looking forward to what the new season will bring. "With this great start to the year, I hope it's a sign for how the rest of the year will go. I only hope I can go up from here. I really expect the five rodeos that we have in the spring to just fly right by and really turn out well."

## Skyhawk offense comes up big in 77-50 win over Tennessee State

**Jared Peckenpaugh**

Sports Editor

The UTM women's basketball team knocked off the Tennessee State Lady Tigers 77-50 in a rematch of last year's Ohio Valley Conference Tournament Championship game, which the Tigers won 64-60 in overtime.

After dropping their conference opener to Eastern Kentucky, the Skyhawks (13-7, 6-1) have won their last six games by double-digit points. It was also the third straight game that the Skyhawks were without leading scorer Daijia Ruffin, who was suspended indefinitely due to a violation of team rules.

The Skyhawks played close with Tennessee State for most of the first half, but a UTM 11-0 run just before the end of the first quarter was the difference as the Skyhawks went to the locker room at halftime with a 35-23 lead.

In the second half, Tennessee State could not muster enough offense or defense to slow down or catch up with the Skyhawks. The

Skyhawks extended their lead by as many as 34 points towards the end of the fourth quarter and cruised to a 77-50 win over Tennessee State.

Haley Howard, who recorded a career-high 25 points Sunday against SEMO, led the UTM scoring effort with 22 points. Jessy Ward followed her with 20 points and shot 7-8 and a perfect 6-6 from 3-point range. Shy Copney recorded her first double-double this season, tallying 10 points and 10 rebounds.

Tennessee State was led by Jayda Johnson, who recorded 16 points and 11 rebounds.

Overall the Skyhawks shot 57 percent (26-45), 66 percent from 3-point range (14-21) and 91 percent from the free throw line (11-12). Meanwhile, Tennessee State struggled shooting the ball, hitting 30 percent of their shots (19-63), 10 percent from 3-point range (6-20) and 75 percent from the free throw line (6-8). Tennessee State also out-rebounded the Skyhawks 35-30.

Turnovers were also a big part of the game. UTM forced 22 Lady Tiger turnovers in

the game and capitalized off of them, scoring 31 points. But the Skyhawks struggled in the turnover department themselves, turning the ball over 22 times.

"You look on a stat sheet, and you see 14-21 from 3-point range, you got to think that was a huge difference in the game," said UTM head coach Kevin McMillan. "I thought our defense was pretty good, pretty solid early. We were pressing them and doing a good job in the press, but we switched to a 1-3-1, and that caused them some problems. But I think the biggest key was that we were able to rebound even though we gave up 18 offensive rebounds. We were able to hold our own essentially on the boards. Shy [Copney] getting 10 rebounds was huge, and Emanyne [Robertson] handling the ball was the difference in the ball game."

The Skyhawk's next game is Saturday, Jan. 30 when UTM takes on OVC rival Murray State. Tipoff between the Skyhawks and the Racers is scheduled for noon from the Elam Center.

## Around the NEST

### Men's Basketball

7:00 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 28 - at Eastern Illinois Lantz Arena, Charleston, Illinois

3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 30 - Murray State Elam Center, Martin, Tennessee

6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 4 - Austin Peay Elam Center, Martin, Tennessee

5 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 6 - at SIU Edwardsville Vandalabene Center, Edwardsville, Illinois

6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 11 - Southeast Missouri Elam Center, Martin, Tennessee

### Women's Basketball

Noon Saturday, Jan. 30 - Murray State Elam Center, Martin, Tennessee

6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 3 - Austin Peay Elam Center, Martin, Tennessee

2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 6 - at SIU Edwardsville Vandalabene Center, Edwardsville, Illinois

6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 10 - Southeast Missouri Elam Center, Martin, Tennessee

### Women's Tennis

10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 30 - at Tennessee

1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 30 - Western Michigan Goodfriend Tennis Center, Knoxville, Tennessee

11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 6 - at Auburn

Noon Sunday, Feb. 7 - at Troy

Yarbrough Tennis Center, Auburn, Alabama

### Men's and Women's Cross Country/Track

Don DeNoon Invitational  
Sat, Feb. 6 - Carbondale, Illinois

### Rifle

OVC Championship  
Saturday, Feb. 6 - Sunday, Feb. 7  
Pat Spurgin Rifle Range, Murray, Kentucky

### Equestrian

9 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 30 - at South Carolina OneWood Farm, Blythewood, South Carolina

### Men's Basketball Action



3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 30

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